

Risk Assessment

Date:	26/09/2023
Produced by:	Ross Dempster / Mark French / Roger Holmes
Assessors Name:	Calum Urquhart
Next Review Date:	17/11/2023
Description of Assessment:	Risk Assessment for BUCS WWR event taking part on the River Tay on the 18th and 19th November 2023
Location Details:	18th November - Lower section of Grandtully rapids (River Tay) 19th November - Upstream of Wades Bridge, Aberfeldy to Aberfeldy Slalom Site

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing to control the risks?	What further action do you need to take to control the risks?	Who needs to carry out the action?	When is the action needed by?	Done
Collision with vehicles/traffic at start or end of sprint or classic race either in the road in Aberfeldy or crossing the road at Grandtully or the car park at Grandtully Station Campsite.	Race participants, Race staff, supporters, safety staff members of the public	Road crossing at Grandtully signposted to warn traffic on the road of paddlers crossing. All race participants to have read the safety briefing document. All race participants to have watched the equipment/clothing video and the safety video Speed limit of 5 mph in the carpark at Grandtully Station Campsite. Staff available to control traffic. Participants briefed via briefing document of dangers of traffic at all locations.	NA	SCA has produced and publicised Briefing document, for participants. SCA to supervise traffic at the various locations as required	Prior to the event to enable circulation to participants On the day.	

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Risk of Tick bites due to being amongst vegetation alongside the river or at the campsite with the risk of contracting Lymes Disease	Race participants, Race staff, supporters, safety staff members of the public	Though less likely at this time of year Tick bites are still a possibility. SCA to publish advice on the risk of Ticks and direct them to the NHS Advice on Tick Bites .	NA	SCA has produced and publicised Briefing document.	Prior to the event to enable circulation to participants	
Weil's Disease contracted by coming into contact with infected urine from rats living on the river bank.	Race participants, Race staff, supporters, safety staff members of the public	SCA to publish advice on the risk of Weils disease and direct them to the NHS Advice on Weil's Disease .	NA	SCA has produced and publicised Briefing document.	Prior to the event to enable circulation to participants	
Risk of contracting COVID	Race participants, Race staff, supporters, safety staff members of the public	Regular cleaning of campsite facilities will take place over the weekend as normal. There will also be hand sanitiser located at various locations around the campsite.	NA	All attending SCA Staff	All to take sensible and practical precautions to minimise contact and the potential spread of COVID	
Emergence of pre-existing medical conditions such as diabetes, asthma, heart conditions	Race participants, Race staff, supporters, safety staff members of the public	Participants asked to make race organisers aware of any pre-existing health conditions.	NA	SCA has produced and publicised Briefing document.	Prior to the event to enable circulation to participants	

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Slipping on rocks/banking approaching river at start and finish of both Classic and Sprint race.	Race participants, Race staff, supporters, safety staff members of the public	Participants briefed through SCA BUCS briefing document to be aware of risk, especially while carrying boats. Staff and safety staff are trained and will have access to first aid kits	NA	SCA has produced and publicised Briefing document. Beyond Adventure is providing a first aid point on both days - located at each race course finish, during the races	Prior to the event to enable circulation to participants On the day	
Bumps and scrapes caused by contact with rocks and riverbed after capsize	Race participants, safety staff.	Staff and on water Safety Staff will have access to first aid kits	NA	SCA and BA Staff and Safety staff	On the day	
Hypothermia	Race participants, safety staff.	SCA has produced a safety briefing document including advice on suitable clothing and equipment.	NA	SCA has produced and publicised Briefing document	Prior to the event to enable circulation to participants	

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Drowning	Race participants, Race staff.	<p>The river levels will be reviewed during the week prior to the event and a final decision will be made on whether there needs to be any alteration to courses used for either the sprint and / or the Classic race to avoid any particular rapid</p> <p>Courses have been set for 2023 to exclude the main Grandtully rapid. This is in order to reduce the risk of capsizes, swims and potential entrapment against the magnetic/ boat breaker rock, upstream of the Grandtully Bridge.</p> <p>The Sprint will start downstream of this feature and the Classic course takes place further upriver in Aberfeldy.</p>	Safety and rescue staff will be positioned in key locations along both race courses in order to provide safety and rescue services for anyone requiring them.	SCA and BA Staff	The week running up to the event with the final decision taken on the Friday before the event. Should the river level be exceptionally high, further adjustments to either/both Sprint and Classic courses will be made. Other factors causing a review and change to the published courses include but are not limited to e.g. a tree that is in the flow of the river, causing a hazard.	
Capsize in rapids (caught in strainer, drowning, injuries caused by boulders)	Race participants, Race staff, members of the public.	<p>Safety paddlers will be positioned in order to protect race participants that have capsized and require rescue assistance.</p> <p>All race participants will have read the safety briefing document.</p> <p>Race staff members will inspect the course the day prior to the race to assess risk and identify recently occurring risks e.g. fallen trees - in</p>	<p>All participants will undergo an equipment check before racing and prior to them receiving their racing bib</p> <p>Participant safety briefing document warns participants of the risk and consequences of becoming trapped</p>	<p>All race participants. Race staff.</p> <p>Race safety staff located in suitable locations to (1) warn participants, where necessary, to avoid</p>	Throughout both days of racing	

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		order to inform participants and/or modify the race course.	against rocks or other obstacles.	hazards (2) rescue participants that are drifting towards or stuck on hazard		
Capsize and swim before Race start (and safety cover).	All Race participants	All participants will have undergone an equipment inspection before the race to ensure the boat is equipped with airbags and are wearing CE marked BA and Helmet Participants recommended to carry an emergency phone and number in case of swim before race start.	NA	All race participants. Race staff.	Prior to event During race days During Race day	
Collision with other river users including participants		Paddlers will be set off at timed intervals in order to space them out along the river. Informing other river users including local slalom clubs via email, website and social media etc. of the event taking place to minimise overlap with other river users. There is a good line of sight available through all the rapids on the river. Paddlers briefed of the need to stay clear of other participants and river users wherever possible.	NA	SCA to advertise the event and to let regular users know it is taking place SCA has produced and publicised Briefing document	Prior to the event Prior to the event to enable circulation to participants	

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Office use only (to be completed by a risk assessment checker if selected for sampling)

Checked by:	Calum Urquhart	Position:	SCA Wild Water Racing Committee Safety Officer	Date:	26/09/2023
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